Message Text

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R 291359Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9976

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FOLLOWING MSG SENT ACTION CAIRO FROM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA, 29 SEP 77, HEREWITH REPEATED TO YOU.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALEXANDRIA 1060

CAIRO PLEASE PASS SECSTATE

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAID, EG, US

SUBJECT: ALLEGED DIVERSION OF US GRAIN

REF: ALEXANDRIA 1057 AND STATE 230798

- 1. USAID CAIRO INFORMED CONGEN 29 SEPTEMBER 1977 THAT CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) RECEIVED ABOUT 3,000 TONS OF TITLE II FLOUR IN JUNE ON "LYKES SHIP" SS JADRO. VESSEL ARRIVED OFF ALEXANDRIA 7 JUNE, UNLOADED AT PIER 77 FROM 14 TO 21 JUNE AND SAILED 22 JUNE
- 2. IF LYKES LINES WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SHIPMENT IT WAS PRESUMABLY ON CHARTER BASIS, BECAUSE SS JADRO IS YUGOSLAVIAN FLAG VESSEL.

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3. LATTER FACT, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS ONE HYPOTHESIS FOR ALLEGED "DIVERSION TO SOVIET VESSEL" (STATE REFTEL). PIER 77 UTILIZES QUAY BEYOND ONE WHERE SS NANCY LYKES LAY (ALEX REFTEL PARA 3). IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CONGRESSMAN RUDD'S INFORMANTS WANDERED OVER TO QUAY SERVING JADRO, SAW USAID-MARKED FLOUR BAGS THERE, LOOKED UP AT STRANGE NAME OF VESSEL AND RED STAR ON FLAG AT STERN

(STICKING OUT INTO HARBOR SO NAME OF HOME PORT NOT VISIBLE), AND JUMPED TO SEVERAL UNWARRANTED CONCLUSIONS.

- 4. WE OFFER THIS FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH AND CONTINUE OUR INVESTIGATIONS.
- 5. AFTER DRAFTING ABOVE, CONGEN USAID OFFICER AND LOCAL ASSISTANT RETURNED FROM PORT WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

 A. SS NANCY LYKES DID OCCUPY PIER 81 DURING TIME IN QUESTION (AND AGENTS CONFIRM MR. AND MRS. POWERS WERE PASSENGERS ON THAT VESSEL). AT NO TIME WAS PIER 80, END OF QUAY, OCCUPIED.

 PIER 79 HAD TWO SUCCESSIVE PANAMANIAN SHIPS. PIER 78 (INSIDE BERTH) IS SUITABLE ONLY FOR RIVER BARGES. SS JAMES LYKES TOOK OVER PIER 77 WHEN SS JADRO LEFT ON JUNE 22. PIER 76, AT END OF THIS QUAY, WAS ALSO EMPTY THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD. PIER 75 BERTHED TWO SUCCESSIVE GREEK SHIPS. ONLY SOVIET SHIP NEAR AREA, KAPITAN ZAMYATIN (ALEX REFTEL PARA 4), WAS AT PIER 71, QUITE FAR FROM SCENE.
- B. EXAMPLE OF FLOUR BAGS BEING UNLOADED FOR CRS TODAY (AND WE ASSUME STANDARD FOR THEIR TITLE II RECEIPTS) SHOWS USAID LOGO, BUT UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS SPELLED OUT. NO RPT NO USA INITIALS.
- 6. WE ARE MORE CONVINCED THAN EARLIER THAT MR. POWERS MAY HAVE MISINTERPRETED WHAT HE SAW AND EMBELLISHED THAT IN THE RETELLING.
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CHASE

UNQUOTE MATTHEWS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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